



**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**  
**Recreation, Park and Cultural Activities**  
**Department of Project Implementation**

# **John Ewald Park Improvements**

## **Park Design Options**

**Community Meeting #1**  
**December 11, 2024**



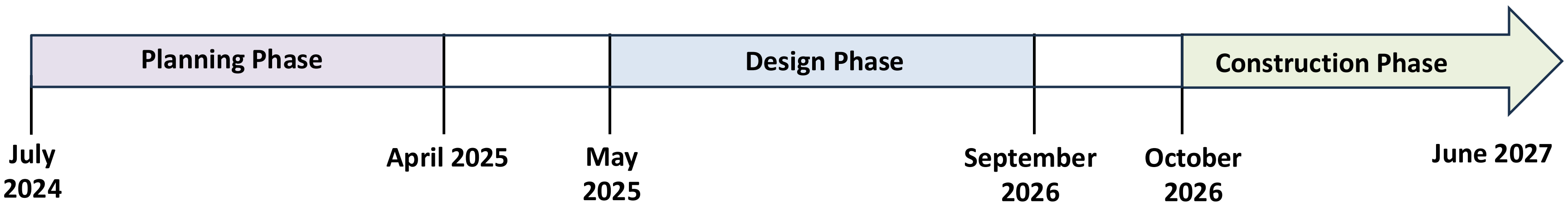
# Agenda



- 1 Implementation Process**
- 2 John Ewald Park Overview**
- 3 Project Background**
- 4 Data Collection: Community Survey Results**
- 5 Data Collection: Existing Conditions**
- 6 Park Design Options**
- 7 Questions/Discussion**



# John Ewald Park Improvements Implementation Process





# John Ewald Park Improvements

## Planning Phase

### Planning Phase

June 2024 -  
April 2025

- Community Engagement Kickoff
- Park Planning Re-Engagement
- Assess grant funding opportunities

- Reaffirm park goals and objectives
- Revisit park improvement recommendations and identify updates
- Assess park equity
- Complete park asset conditions assessment
- Collect site data
- Develop site design concepts
- Develop preliminary cost estimate
- Conduct community engagement
- Coordinate with partner departments
- Seek grant funding opportunities
- Hold Park and Recreation Commission Public Hearing



# John Ewald Park Improvements

## Community Engagement





# Community Engagement Upcoming Events



Park Pop Up event, November 16, 2024

## Project Process

# Shape the Future of Ewald Park

The City of Alexandria invites your feedback on the redesign of Ewald Park, 4452 Duke St. Help us create a welcoming, accessible, sustainable, and enjoyable space for everyone!

### Join us to share your ideas:

- **Park Design Virtual Community Meeting #1**  
*Wednesday, December 11, 7 p.m. (via Zoom\*)*  
Join to review site data, survey results, and park design concepts. Designs and an online survey will be available on December 11. Recordings will be posted after the meeting.
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View the preferred design, talk with staff, and share your thoughts. Light refreshments will be served.



### Have Ideas for Ewald Park?

We value your input! Scan the QR code to review upcoming plans, provide your feedback, and \*access Zoom links. Your voice helps shape the future!

[alexandriava.gov/parks/ewald-project](https://alexandriava.gov/parks/ewald-project)



Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities







# John Ewald Park Improvements

## Park History – Early – Mid 20th Century



 Alexandria Archaeology  
**Ewald Park**  
1927 aerial  
0 70 140 280 Feet  
N



 Alexandria Archaeology  
**Ewald Park**  
1964 aerial  
0 70 140 280 Feet  
N

- ▶ Property was part of a 57.5 acre farm and remained largely vacant until the early 20th century
- ▶ The City acquired the property in 1965 as parkland
- ▶ In 1970, City Council named the park after John Ewald, a council member and sports enthusiast



# John Ewald Park Improvements

## Park History – Present Day



 Alexandria Archaeology  
**Ewald Park**  
1995 aerial  
0 70 140 280 Feet  
N



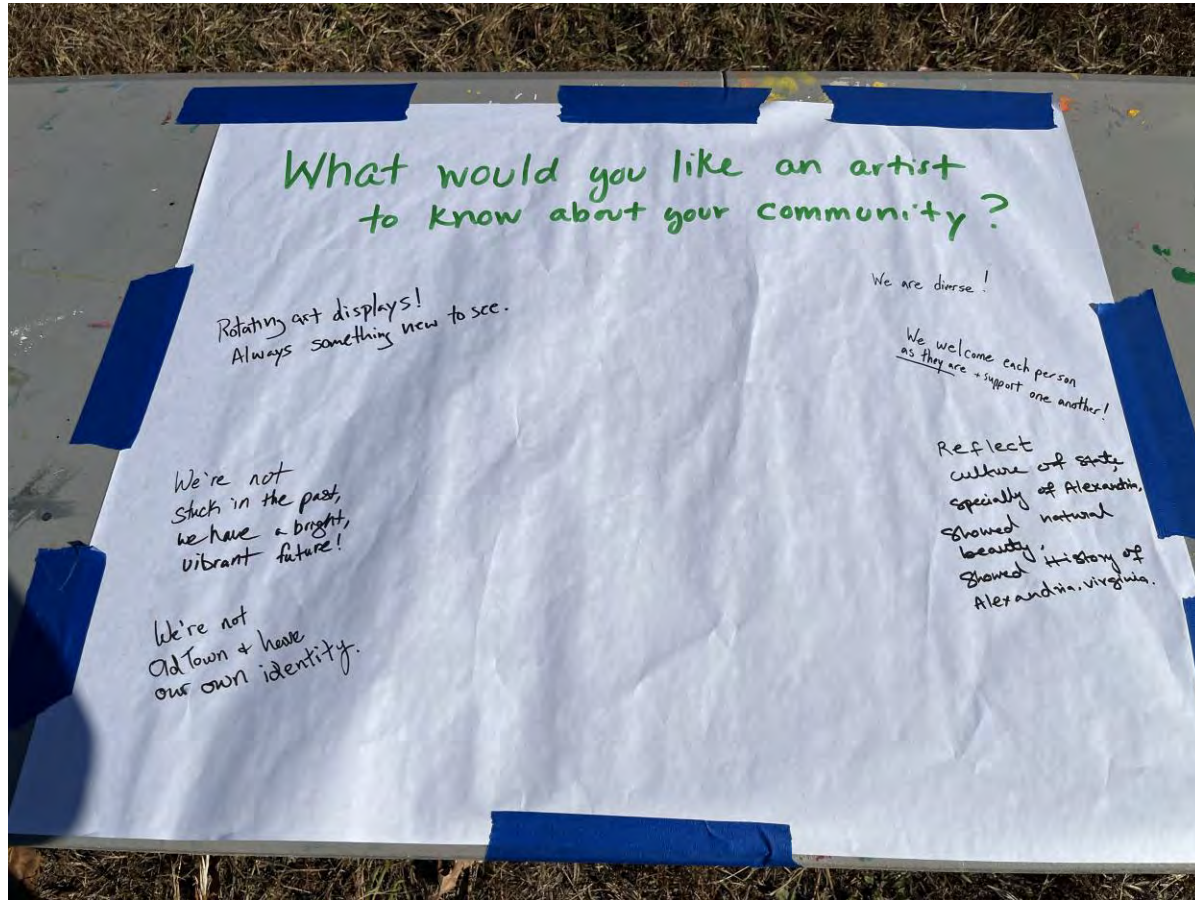
**Ewald Park**  
2023 aerial





# John Ewald Park Improvements

## Neighborhood Overview



November 16, 2024 Pop at the Park

*"We're not stuck in the past, we have a bright vibrant future!"*

*"We welcome each person as they are and support one another!"*

*" We are diverse!"*

*" We're not Old Town and have our own identity"*

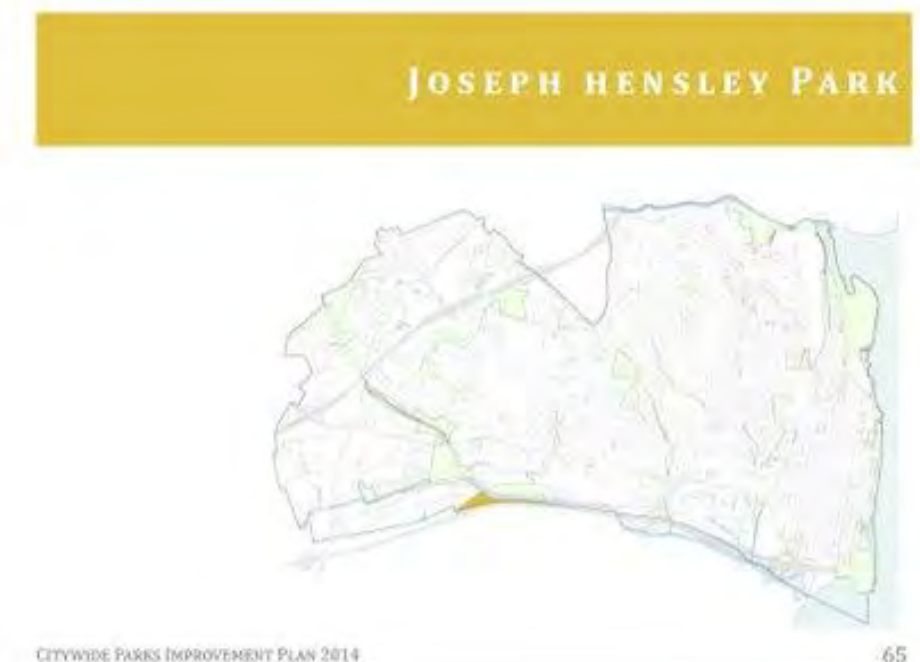


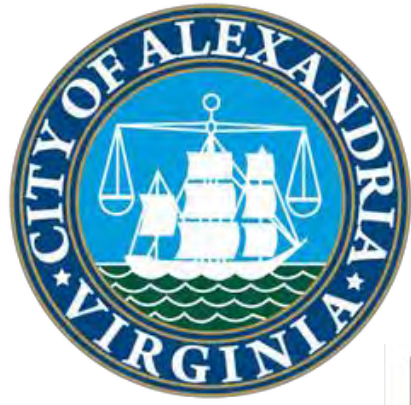
April 23, 2024 Community Cookout



# Alexandria Park Typology Plans

- ▶ **Park typology planning process started in 2012 to categorize parks and develop framework plans for improvements**
- ▶ **Park plans include community based recommendations for improvements to better meet community needs**
  - ▶ Eight Park Typologies based on size and use
  - ▶ Park Plan approvals to date include: Citywide Parks (2014), Neighborhood Parks (2015), and Pocket Parks (2020)





# John Ewald Park – Neighborhood Park Classification



## Neighborhood Parks

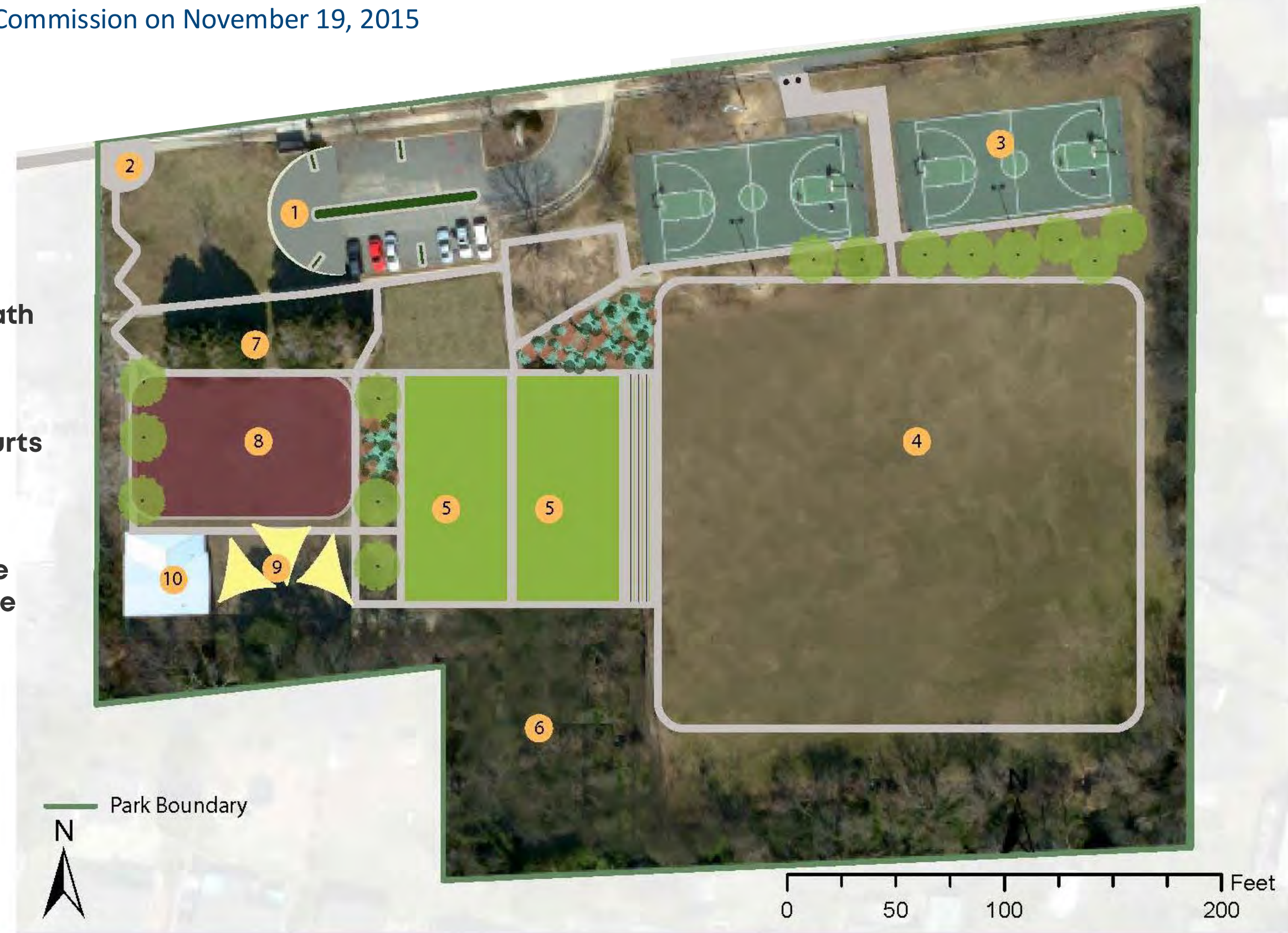
- ▶ **May include multiple uses within park boundary**
- ▶ **Attracts nearby residents**
- ▶ **Acreage of 0.5 to 10 acres**
- ▶ **Park Plans for 19 neighborhood parks initially completed in 2015**



# 2015 Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan Recommendations for John Ewald Park

Endorsed by the Park and Recreation Commission on November 19, 2015

1. Create a turnaround & landscaped median in the parking lot
2. Create pedestrian entrance near Duke St./Jordan intersection
3. Install a second basketball court & maintenance path
4. Renovate the turf & install a walking path
5. Replace the paved blacktop with two multi-use courts
6. Restore the existing playground to forest area
7. Work with Alexandria Police Department to improve park safety, particularly in areas not visible from Duke Street
8. Move the playground to the west side of the park
9. Install shade structure & picnic area
10. Reserve a space for a community building





# 2018 Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan Amendment: Parkour/Community Matching Fund

Endorsed by the Park and Recreation Commission on November 15, 2018

- ▶ **2018 Community Matching Fund Awardee**
- ▶ **In 2022, the total fundraised by the community and matched by the City is \$28,965**



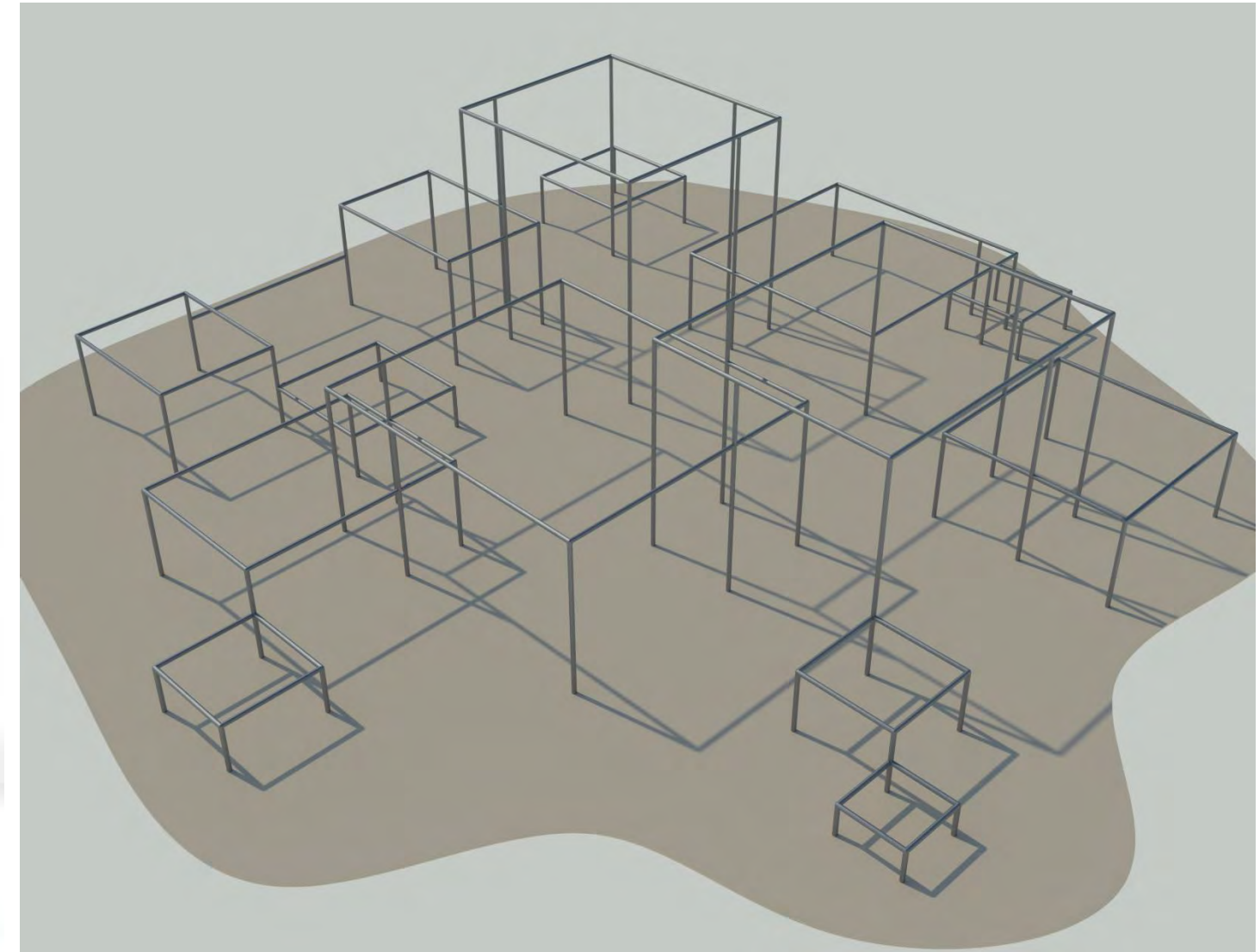
## Overview: Parkour

Physical Discipline

Adapting and overcoming obstacles in one's path

Jumping, climbing, swinging, landing, vaulting, balancing, flipping

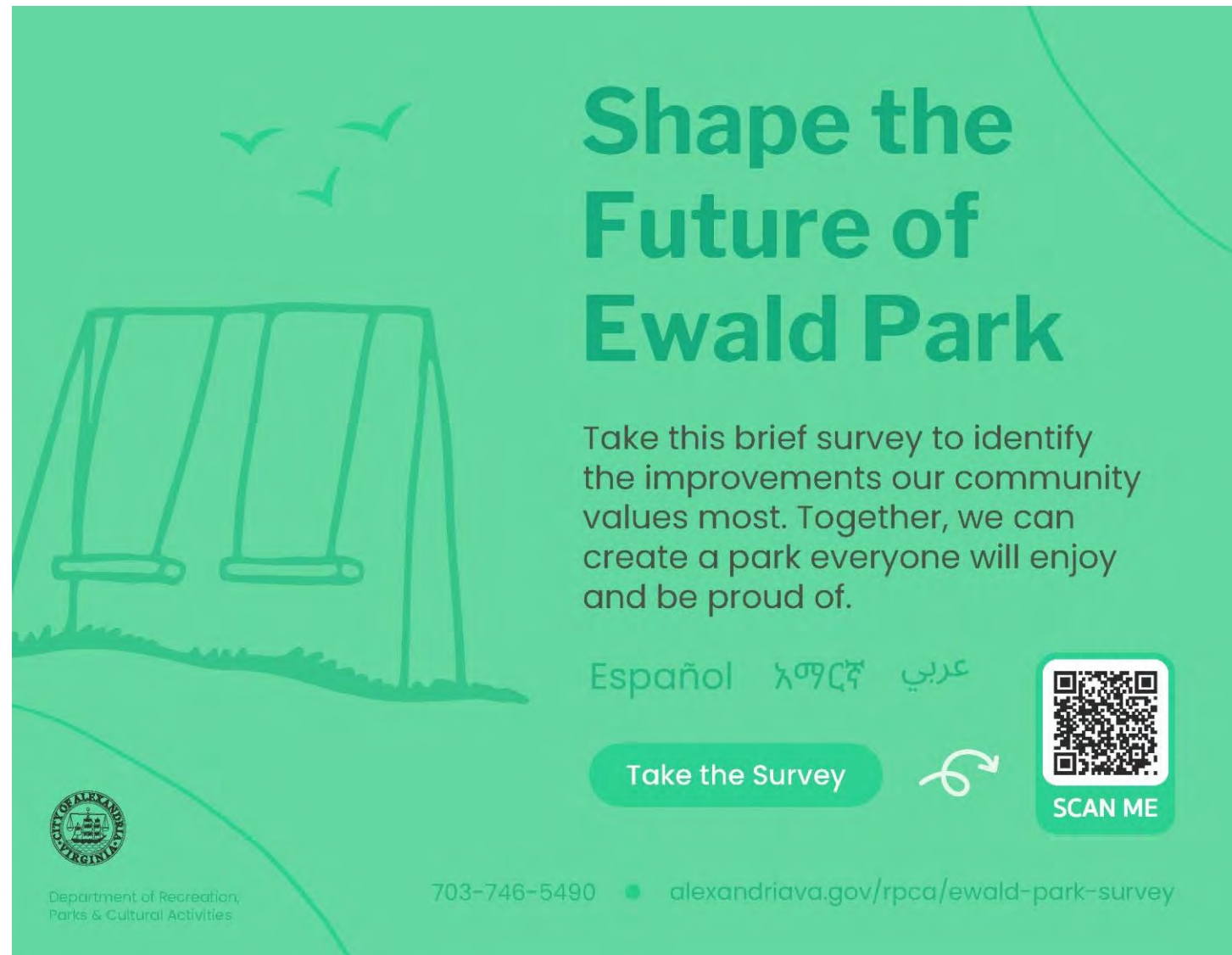
Mastering the mind and body and using both to move creatively, efficiently, and safely



Parkour Design for Ewald Park



# Fall 2024 Community Survey Survey Goals and Purpose

A green survey poster for Ewald Park. It features a line drawing of a swing set on the left. The text reads: "Shape the Future of Ewald Park", "Take this brief survey to identify the improvements our community values most. Together, we can create a park everyone will enjoy and be proud of.", "Español አማርኛ عربي", "Take the Survey" (with a refresh icon), and a QR code labeled "SCAN ME". At the bottom, it includes the City of Alexandria logo, "Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities", the phone number "703-746-5490", and the URL "alexandriava.gov/rpca/ewald-park-survey".

**Shape the Future of Ewald Park**

Take this brief survey to identify the improvements our community values most. Together, we can create a park everyone will enjoy and be proud of.

Español አማርኛ عربي

Take the Survey

SCAN ME

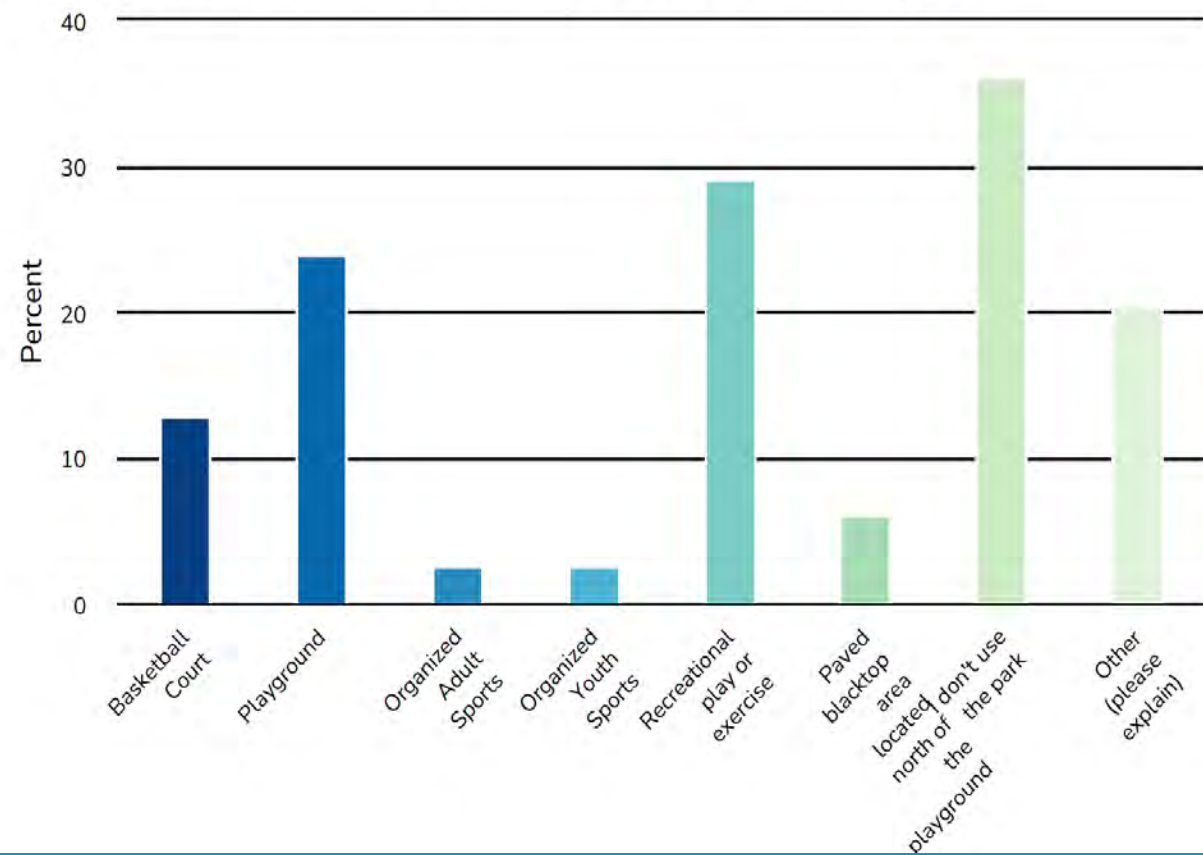
703-746-5490 • alexandriava.gov/rpca/ewald-park-survey

- ▶ **Improve survey participation and response rate**
- ▶ **Verify the original 2015 park goals and recommendations**
- ▶ **Evaluate revisions to the original 2015 goals and recommendations**
- ▶ **Identify top priorities for implementation**



# Fall 2024 Community Survey Key Findings and Insights

2. How do you use John Ewald Park? (select all that apply)



▶ **214 survey responses received  
Exceeds 2014 response rate**

▶ **42% indicate they rarely use the park**

▶ **30% have never used the park**

▶ **Playground, basketball court, walking/dog walking, general play/exercise are the most common uses**

**Responses show the park is underutilized and not well known. This supports similar findings from the 2014 community engagement.**



# Fall 2024 Community Survey Key Findings and Insights

- ▶ **Are the original park improvement goals and recommendations still valid after nine years?**
  - ▶ 85% agree on original park goals
- ▶ **Which improvement recommendations should stay the same?**
  1. Install shade structure and picnic area
  2. Renovate the turf & install walking path
  3. Replace the blacktop with two multipurpose courts
- ▶ **Which improvement recommendations should be removed or revised?**
  - ▶ Replace the playground with a forest area





# Fall 2024 Community Survey

## Key Findings and Insights

### ▶ Which improvement recommendations are most people unsure about?

1. Create a turnaround & landscape median in the parking lot
2. Reserve a space for a community building
3. Move the playground to the west side of the park
4. Install a second basketball court and maintenance path

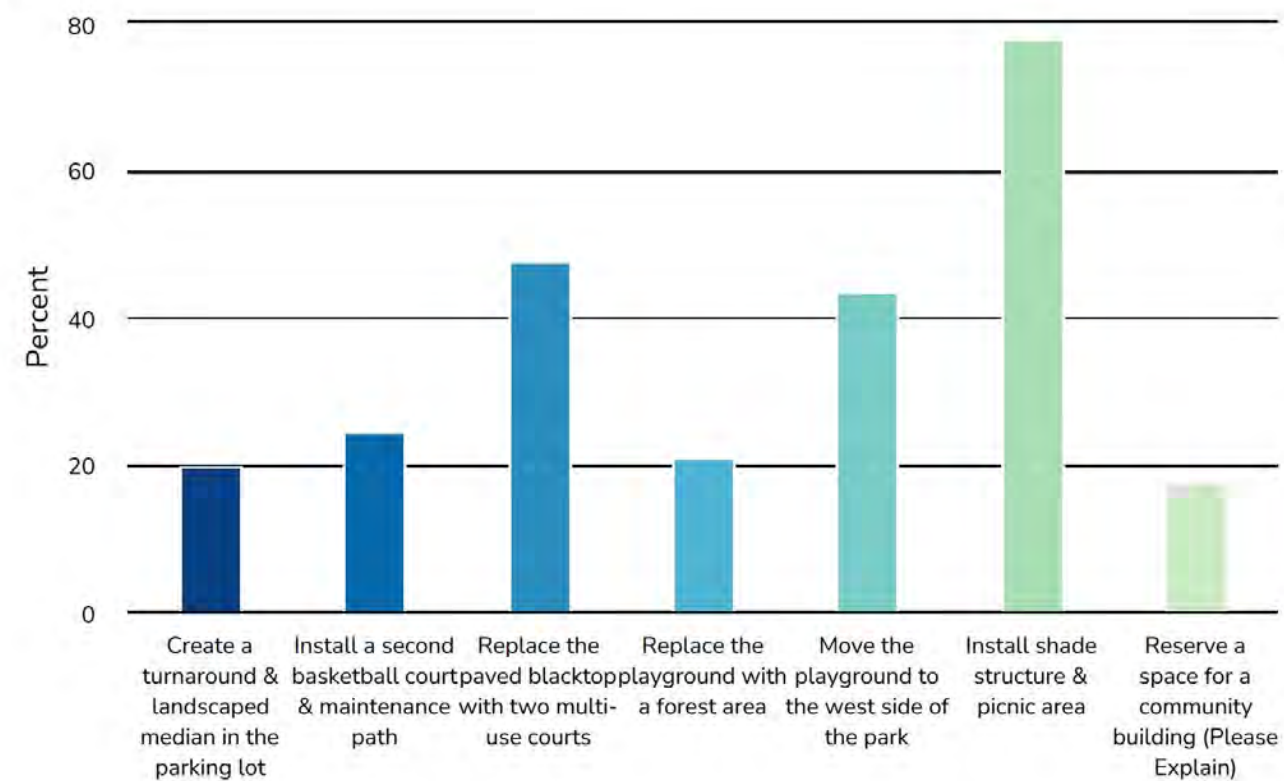
### ▶ Common themes and new ideas about the park...

1. Improve park safety, sight lines, and lighting
2. Add water features; drinking fountain and splash area
3. Add more plantings/beautification; community gardens
4. Update the playground in its current location
5. Support more park maintenance
6. Bring back tennis courts/have dedicated pickleball
7. Add more shade



# Fall 2024 Community Survey Key Findings and Insights

4. Please select up to three park recommendations that interest you the most.

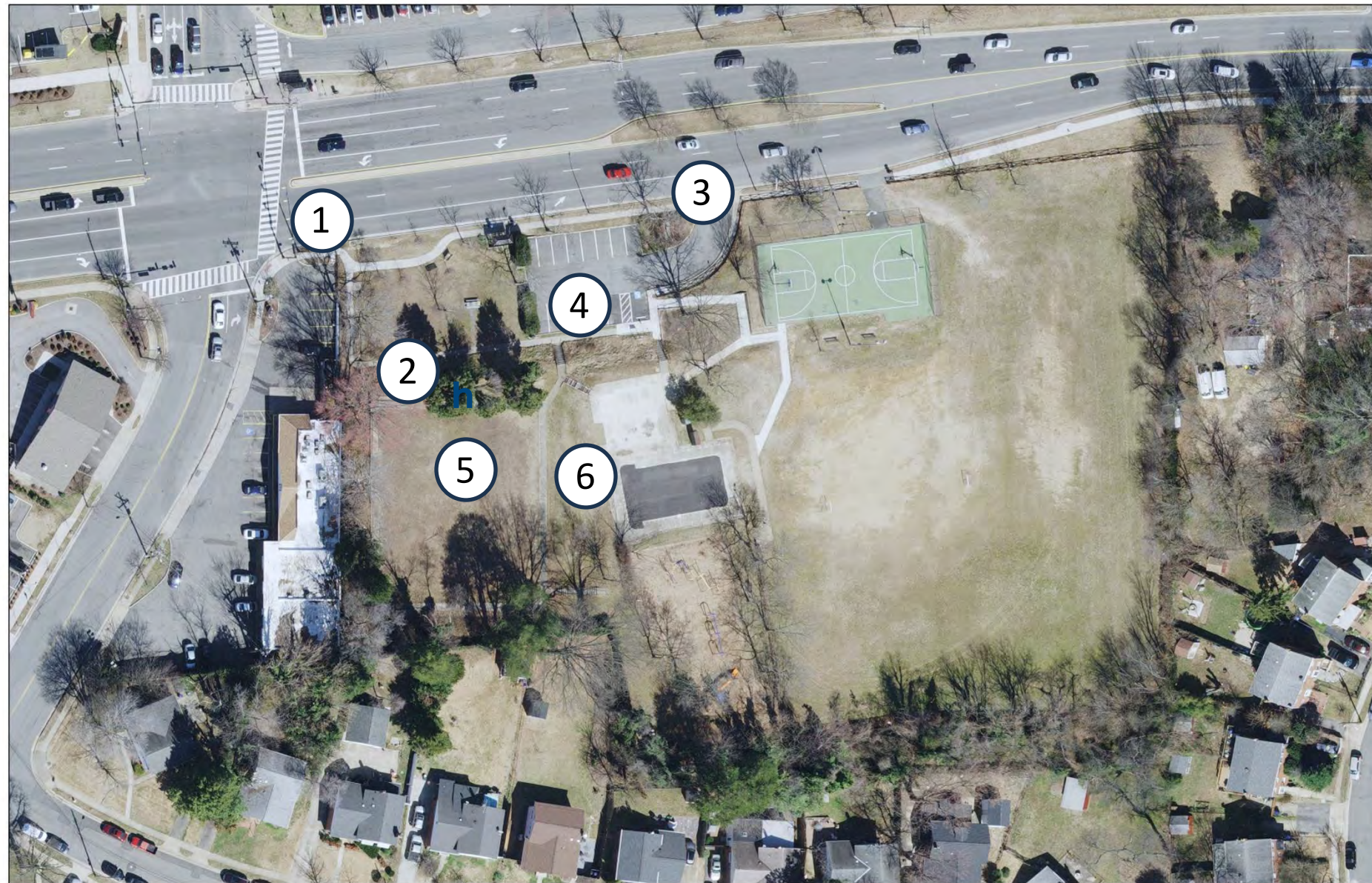


## ▶ What are the community's top interests and priorities for implementation?

- ▶ Install shade structure and picnic area
- ▶ Replace the blacktop with multipurpose courts
- ▶ Improve playground experience
- ▶ Improve turf and add walking path



# Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



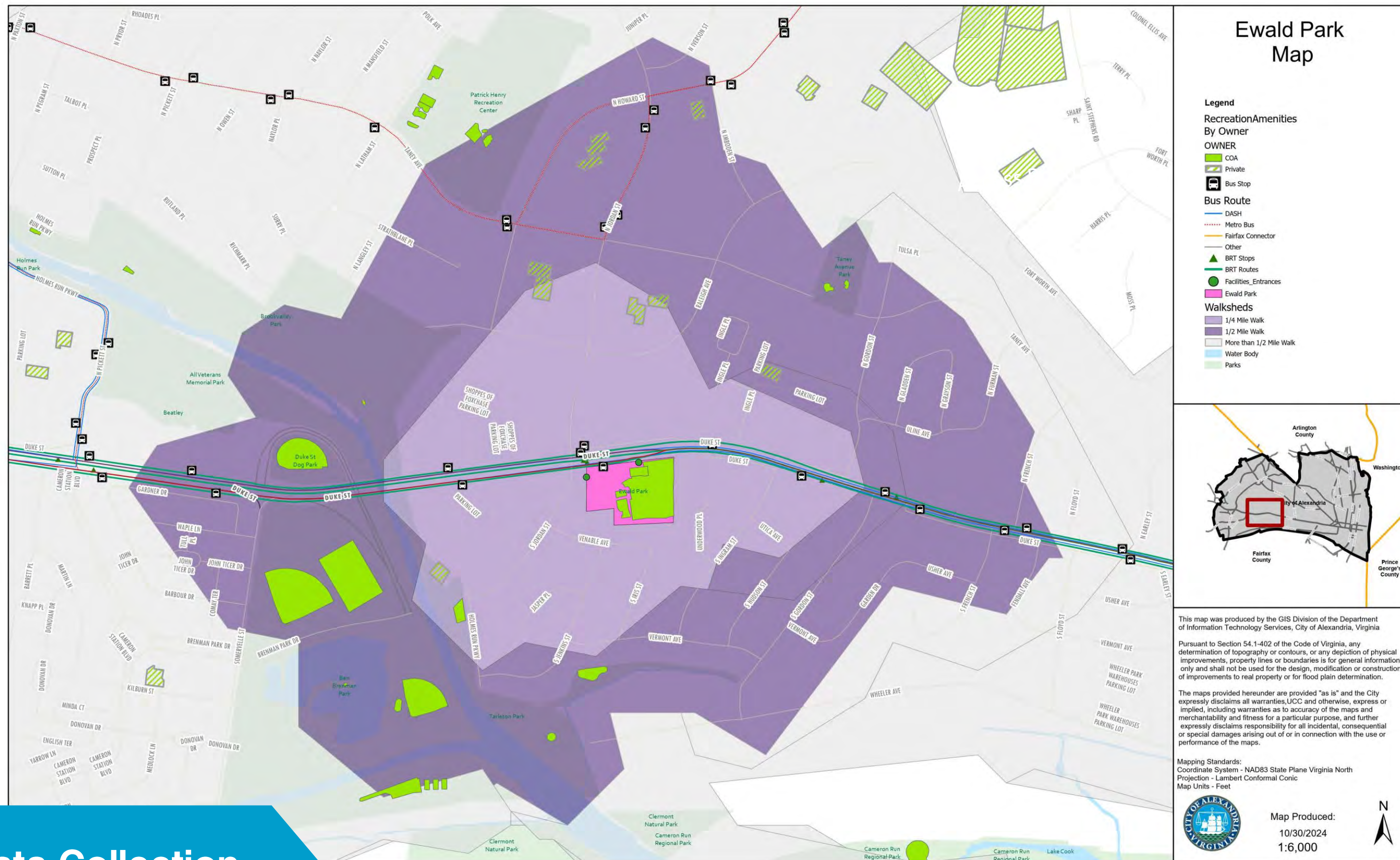
# Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



# John Ewald Park - Walkshed



Data Collection



# Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) - Observations

## ▶ Positive Activity Generators

- Basketball Court
- Open Grass Field



## ▶ Negative Activity Generators

- Reports of alcohol and drug use
- Poor sightlines conceal negative activity
- Lack of seating/shade -- people move to shaded areas of the park, such as playground



## ▶ Natural Surveillance

- Activity areas are located on top of hill and not visible from street

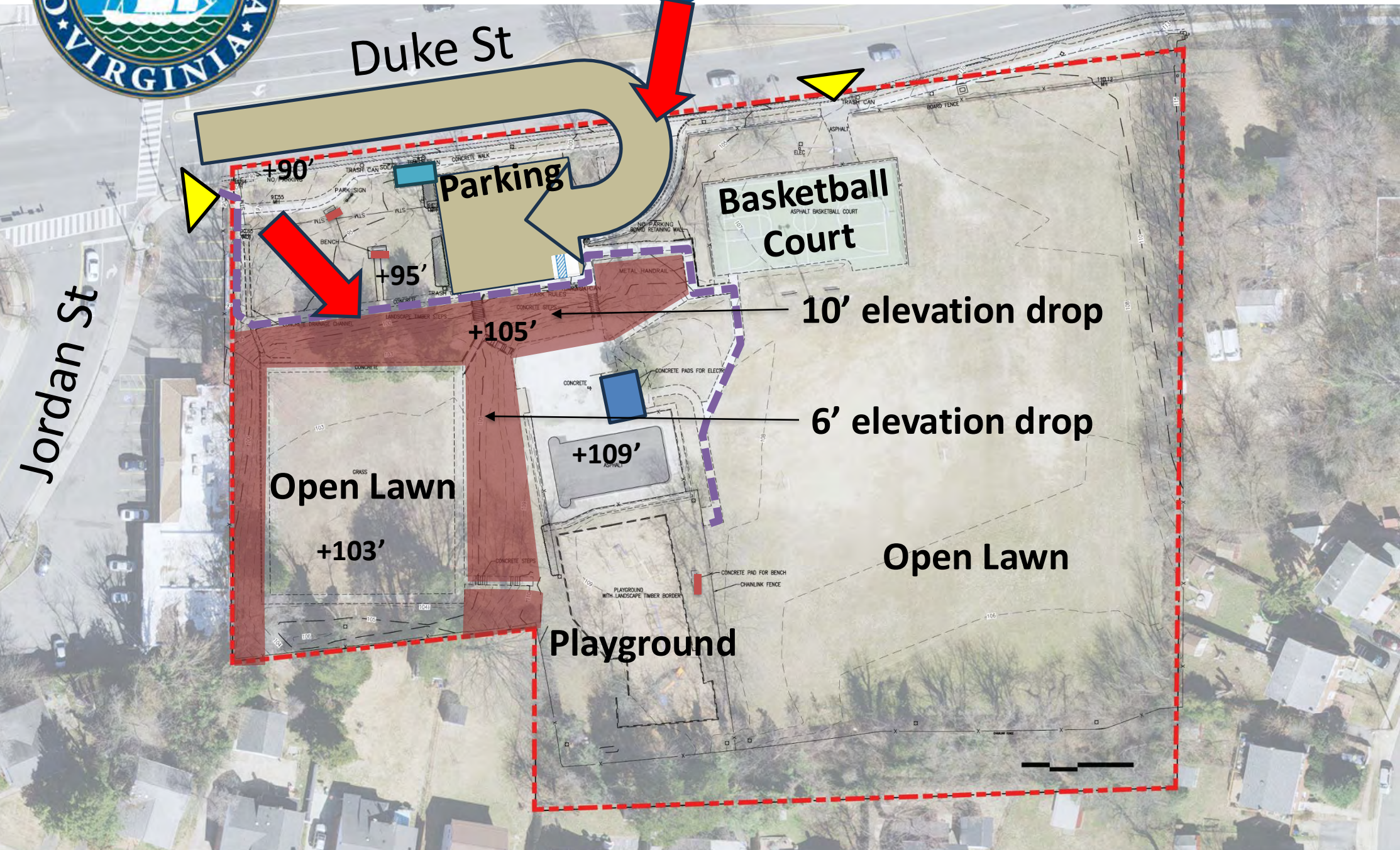


## ▶ Natural Access Control

- Desire paths backing up to park
- Park is partially fenced with gaps
- Lack of formal park entrance



# Existing Conditions – Site Analysis



## Constraints

- Undefined park entrance
- Poor sightlines from street and within park
- Multiple activity areas at various elevations
- Circuitous ADA accessible route
- Vehicular entrance close to intersection
- Limited vehicular parking – dead end
- Playground not visible to the street
- Lack of seating
- Utility boxes exposed at the center of the park

## LEGEND

	Vehicular Access & Parking		Steep Slopes		Accessible Parking Spaces
	Poor Line of Sight		Utility Boxes		Seating
	ADA Access Route		Pedestrian Park Entrance		Bus Stop

**Existing  
Conditions**



# Existing Conditions - Vegetation

Trees Worth Preserving



**Legend**  
Add to Survey  
Non-investible Tree  
Trees Worth Preserving





# Park Design – Goals and Objectives

- Be a safe place for children to explore
- Be a place to create social connections
- Be a place full of community activities

## ▶ Improve Lighting and Security

*Improve lighting and consider visibility and approaches to promote safety*



Ben Brenman Park solar lighting

## ▶ Enhance Street Frontage and Safety

*Beautify and secure the Duke Street frontage with plantings, fencing, and well-defined arrival points.*



Powhatan Park - Rt. 1 street frontage and fencing

## ▶ Ensure Accessibility

*Apply best practices for accessibility, inclusion, and comply with ADA requirements.*



5 E. Braddock Road Pocket Park accessible route



# Park Design – Goals and Objectives

## ▶ Integrate Public Art

*Collaborate with the City's Office of the Arts to incorporate public art in the park.*



Simpson Park Playground 'Del Ray Play'

## ▶ Incorporate Shade

*Add shaded areas (natural and structured) to enhance comfort and useability*



Beverley Park Picnic Shelter

## ▶ Support Multi-Generational Uses

*Provide activity areas that support programming and create opportunities for social interactions with diverse groups*



Shirley Tyler Unity Park plaza/seating area

## ▶ Parkour Equipment

*Include the community funded Parkour equipment in the design; co-locate with the playground*



# Park Design – Goals and Objectives

## ▶ Park Beautification

*Add plantings in strategic locations and collaborate with community groups to ensure long-term maintenance*

## ▶ Preserve and Replace Vegetation

*Preserve existing vegetation wherever possible. If removed, replace at a 3:1 ratio*

## ▶ Promote Sustainability

*Implement sustainability measures to improve park conditions and leave it better for future generations*



Powhatan Park Plantings



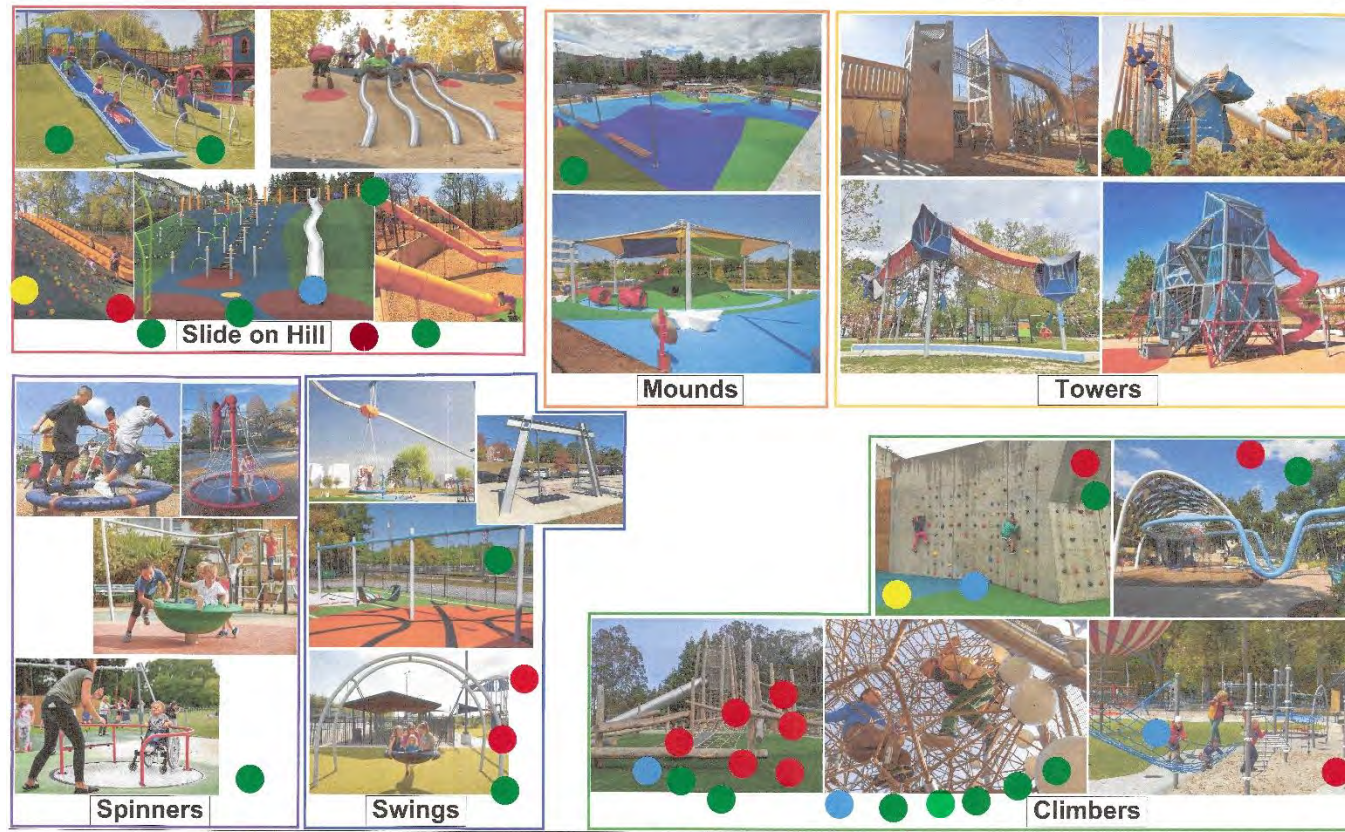
Ewald Park trees and vegetation



Windmill Hill Park conservation plantings



# Park Design – Playground Equipment Preferences



Note: Images shown are for the purpose of gathering ideas and preferences for playground equipment. They are not representative of the playground design, playground size, and do not bear any likeness to the final playground product.

**John Ewald Park**  
Playground Equipment Examples



Nature based play equipment offers the opportunity to interact with naturalistic play features and environments.

Note: Images shown are for the purpose of gathering ideas and preferences for playground equipment. They are not representative of the playground design, playground size, and do not bear any likeness to the final playground product.

**John Ewald Park**  
Nature Based Playground Examples



## Park Design

**John Ewald Park**



Traditional playgrounds offer the safety and familiarity communities can trust.

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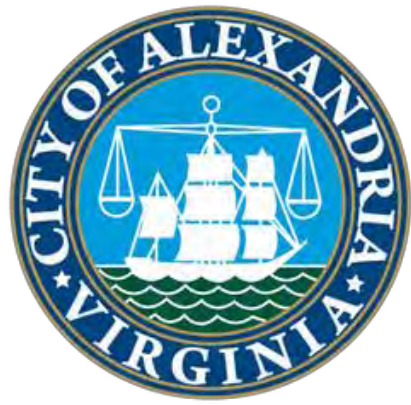
**John Ewald Park**  
Traditional Playground Examples





# Ewald Park Design Options

- ▶ **On-going iterative process**
- ▶ **Reflects community and staff feedback about programming and improvement**
- ▶ **Community feedback desired focusing on the location of activities and park elements.**
  - ▶ *What is your preferred design option?*
  - ▶ *What do you like about the option and what could be improved?*



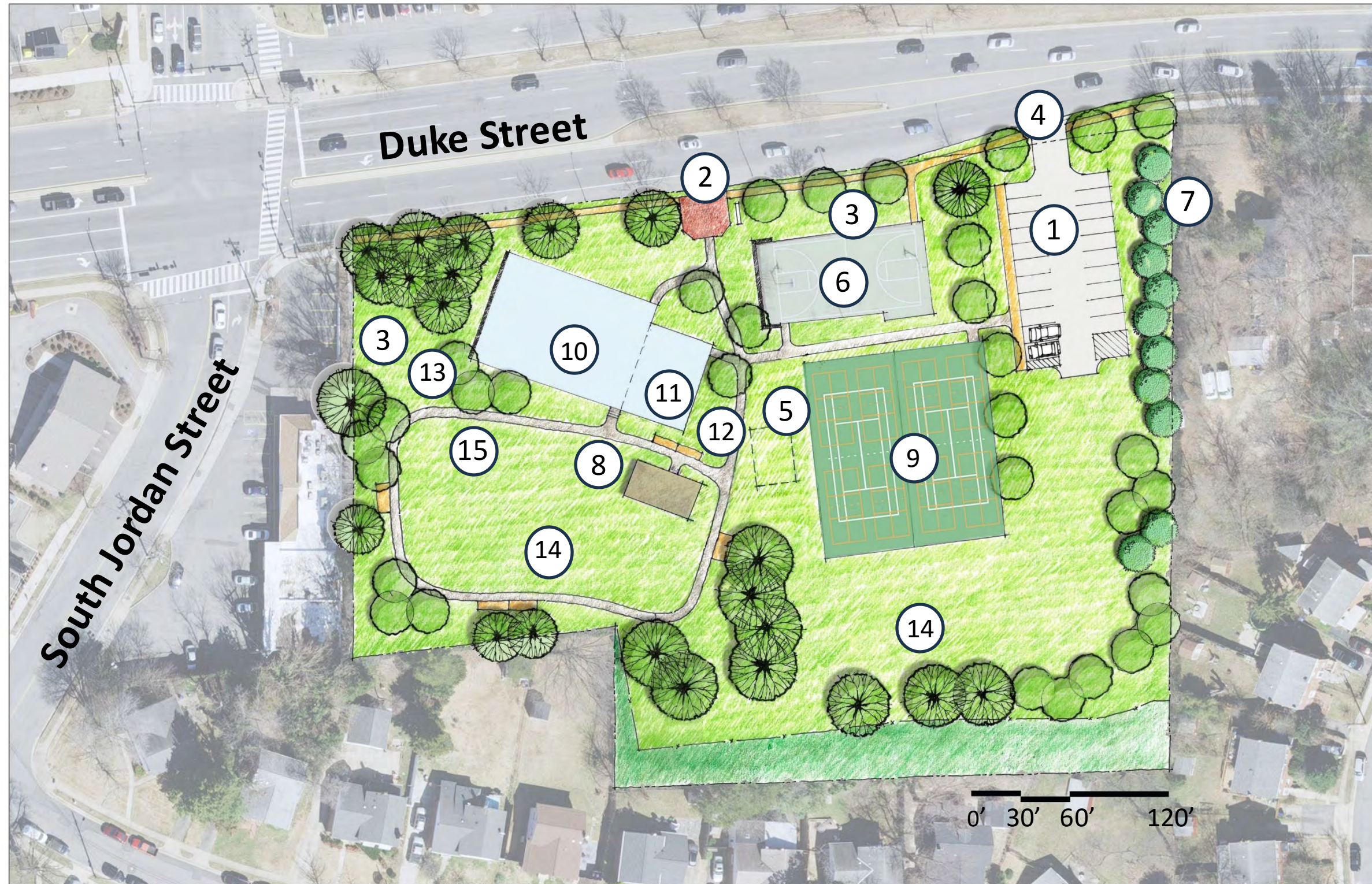
# Ewald Park Design – Option 1



1. Proposed One-Way Vehicular Entrance
2. Park Entrance Plaza
3. Stormwater Management Systems
4. Park Maintenance Entrance
5. Restroom
6. Existing Basketball Court to Remain
7. Proposed Second Basketball Court
8. Vegetation Buffer
9. Picnic Pavilion
10. Two Multipurpose Courts
11. Relocated Playground
12. Parkour Fitness Area
13. Fitness Exercise Area
14. Seating
15. Slope Lawn
16. Open Lawn
17. Pathway system



# Ewald Park Design – Option 2



1. Relocated Parking Lot
2. Park Entrance Plaza
3. Stormwater Management Systems
4. Park Vehicular/Maintenance Entrance
5. Restroom
6. Existing Basketball Court to Remain
7. Vegetation Buffer
8. Picnic Pavilion
9. Two Multipurpose Courts
10. Relocated Playground
11. Parkour Equipment
12. Seating
13. Slope Lawn
14. Open Lawn
15. Pathway System



# Ewald Park Design Options



**Option 1**



**Option 2**





# Questions/Discussion

## Thank you!

### Project Webpage:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/john-ewald-park-improvements>

### Project Team:

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Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

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**Qiaojue Yu**

Technical Project Manager

Department of Project Implementation

[qiaojue.yu@alexandriava.gov](mailto:qiaojue.yu@alexandriava.gov), 703.746.4691

Questions/Discussion

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